GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:250
ANSWERED ON:16.07.2002
WEST BENGAL NEW BIO-TECHNOLOGY POLICY
ANANDRAO ADSUL

Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the West Bengal Government have launched a new bio-technology policy to meet the future requirements;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Centre also provides any assistance to the West Bengal Government to implement the same;

(d) if so, whether there is any proposal to introduce this kind of scheme in other States also, and

(e) if so, the time by which it is likely to be done?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE FOR SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI BACHI SINGH RAWAT)

(a)&(b) :Yes Sir; the West Bengal Government has formulated Biotechnology Policy with major emphasis on conservation of biodiversity, strengthening of agrarian economy, promotion of village level industries and generation of employment. The policy addresses the use of bioinformatics, knowledge on IPR protection, biosafety and bioethics. Fiscal incentives to facilitate the process have also been proposed.

The major areas identified are development of transgenic cereal crops, jute and tea cultivation, medicinal and aromatic plants, establishment of gene banks, biofertilizers, biopesticides, edible vaccines, enhancement of milk yields, vaccines for livestock diseases and system management with alternative resources and bio-mass development. For monitoring and overseeing the implementation of the biotechnology policy, a working Group and a State Advisory Board on Biotechnology have been constituted.

(c) : The Department of Biotechnology provides financial grant for R&D projects in the identified thrust areas to various research institutions, autonomous bodies and universities in West Bengal. Even in the policy formulation, the Department has been associated.

(d)&(e) : Efforts for development, demonstration, training and application of biotechnology have been made by many other states in close collaboration with the DBT. Some of the states are Orissa, Kerala, Uttar Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat etc.